

THE DIFFERENCE JESUS MAKES IN CHILDREN AND PARENTS

COLOSSIANS 3:20-21

CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – MARCH 30, 2025

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What do you remember from your childhood about your spiritual upbringing?

SERMON RECAP

Things children SHOULD do:

- Listen to parents.
- Honor and obey parents.

Things parents SHOULD NOT do:

- Do not abdicate parental responsibility.
- Do not abuse parental authority.
- Do not provoke children by belittling, nagging, perpetual fault-finding, shaming, inconsistently disciplining, making demands without discernment, showing anger without affection, leading without a shepherd's heart, and being disconnected from gospel grace.

Things parents SHOULD do.

- Be hopeful.
- Be happy.
- Be confident.
- Be courageous.

Children will *rarely* be what they cannot see. Children need to see what hope in God, happiness in God, confidence in God, and courage with God look like in their parents.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does the passage say?

1. Read Colossians 3:20-21 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - How does verse 20 qualify a child's obedience?
 - What are fathers commanded in verse 21?
 - What would be "discouraging" in the context of verses 20-21?
 - How would you summarize Colossians 3:20-21 in your own words?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Colossians 3:20, Proverbs 1:8-9, and Ephesians 6:1-3.
 - The Greek word for "obey" used here is *hupakuou* (hoop-ak-OO-o). Using a Bible Concordance, what does obey mean with regard to children in this passage?
 - What does it mean that children should obey their parents because it pleases the Lord?
 - What is biblical obedience as exemplified by Jesus?

- Why does God call children to obey their parents?
2. Read Colossians 3:21, Proverbs 13:24, Ephesians 6:4, and Psalm 78:4-8
 - The Greek word for “provoke” used here is the word erethizo (er-eth-ID-zo). Using a Bible Concordance, what does provoke mean in this passage?
 - What does it mean that fathers should not provoke their children and how can this provocation be discouraging?
 - What is biblical encouragement as exemplified by Jesus?
 - Why does God call fathers to encourage their children?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Be Obedient:
 - How are or how were you obedient as a child to your parents?
 - How does discipline lead to righteousness? (See Hebrews 12:11)
 - In what specific ways do you please God with your child-like obedience?
 - How does the world try to call you away from child-like obedience?
 - How would the world know that you are listening under the authority of Jesus?
 - How can your Church Group support you as you practice child-like ‘obedience, to please the Lord?’
2. Be Encouraging:
 - How could you discipline children or others gracefully without provoking them? (See Titus 2:11-13)
 - How would others see that your focus is on Jesus and not on the things of the world?
 - How are you encouraging children and others with Jesus’ example through your words?
 - How are you encouraging children and others with Jesus’ example through your actions?
 - How would the example of your life be seen by others?
 - How can your Church Group pray for you as you live to be an encouragement to children and others?

LEADER NOTES

SECRET CHURCH 25 | Gather your Church Group and join us at MBC Tysons on April 11 for Secret Church 25! Pastor David will lead us through the book of Matthew, we will learn about needs among the unreached, and we will pray together for the persecuted church around the world. Register at mcleanbible.org/events to receive the complimentary Guided Scripture Journal.

VOLUNTEER AT KINGDOM ADVENTURE WEEK | Kid’s Quest and Access are hosting a Bible day camp for children of all abilities and they need your help to bring the fun this summer! Volunteer needs include serving as room leaders or inclusion buddies for students with special needs. Day camp will run June 24-28 from 10 am-3 pm at MBC Tysons. Sign up to serve [HERE](#) or contact [Caleb Barnhart](#) for more information.